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Frederick Bernard to "My dear dear Mother," 18 February 1871

Frederick Robert Bernard (1850-1922)

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Oxford Miss
Feb. 18th 1871

My dear dear Mother

P
Owing to a most
severe rain storm that visited our
"Campus" yesterday afternoon I
was deprived of the delightful
pleasure of going to the Post in
quest, or in anxious expectation of
my weekly epistle from "dulce" domum.
But as the Sun is at present shin-
ing with great brilliancy, both
foretelling what is to be the future
state of weather this afternoon
and materially tending to awak-
en my latent good spirits I will
bend my footsteps towards ^{'town} with a
full assurance of getting a letter.
The examination has at last
closed; I was questioned in Latin

and English only; and stood 811
92. I have not as yet learned
whether the Faculty will permit
me to enter Geometry at this time
or not but if they should I will
make high marks next time sure.
I will not say "high", because ~~my~~
my present report is admirable but
to ^{be} say higher. I am glad to hear
that the mail boats are again
plying between their respective places.
And now there is no excuse why I
should not hear regularly from you
or you from me. I presume ere this
that most of the cotton has been
shipped and Pa is some what re-
lieved from the harassments and
discontentures attendant upon the
yearly settlements with the Negroes
labor, as well as that upon the re-
newal of contracts a greater annoyance
perhaps because the Negro knowing full
well the destitute condition of the

country in regards to labor try to
exact more from his employer. I will
be obliged to ask Pa for some money
as soon as he can spare it; I hope
I have been and am determined to
continue economical because I know
greenbacks every where are like mosquitoes
teeth. I was very glad indeed to get
the paper altho it did not contain any
great amount of news. I will close
with great love and affection to all

Your devoted son
Fred

P.S.

I went to the office this eve-
ning and got yours of the 11th inst. Sorry
to hear you have been sick. I took
this scrawl all the way up town
with the intention of mailing it -
and would you believe I was so
absent minded as to bring it all
the way back in my pocket when
I happened to think that I had failed

to date it - and therefore
opened it for that purpose
I think Leggie Blackburn must
certainly be the "Die Vernon"
of the 19th century but I would
not congratulate myself or any
of my friends on being the "Frank
Orblistone" of the century
but at the same regard Miss L
as one of my best friends and wish
there were the more of her. The best
that once added to the beauty of
old "Carroll" has gone and the
sweet songs that were evoked
on the banks of that romantic
"old river" will be little ^{to} sup
pose some ^{to} Bryan Foster who will
not begin to appreciate it.

Remember me to all friends
+
Your loving son
one more

Fred

Ans. 16th May 70

Mrs S. P. Bernard,

Providence.

La.